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PATENTS

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Applicant(s):** Steven Donders

**Examiner:** Unassigned

**Serial No:** Unassigned

**Art Unit:** Unassigned

**Filed:** Herewith

**Docket:** 14971

**For:** METHOD FOR PRODUCING A  
BALL-AND-SOCKET JOINT BETWEEN A SLIPPER  
AND A PISTON, AND A BALL-AND-SOCKET JOINT  
OF THIS TYPE

**Dated:** January 11, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

In connection with the filing of the above-identified application, kindly enter  
the following preliminary amendments.

**In the claims:**

**Please amend claims 3-5, 11 and 12 as follows:**

A 3.(Amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that the recess edge (7) is hot-beaded.

4.(Amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that, before finishing the lateral surface (2c) of the piston (2), the lateral surface (2c) is nitrided or hardened.

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Dated: January 11, 2002

Michelle Mustafa